Memorandum submitted by the Royal Indian Navy Mutineers' Association

1560. SHRI N. E. BALARAM : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Royal Indian Navy (RIN) Mutineers' Association has recently submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister demanding that all those Royal Indian Navy personnel who were discharged from service before August 15, 1947 under any ground should be treated as participants in the RIN mutiny of 1946 and be extended the benefits given to freedom fighters; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Memorandum has recently been received. It is under consideration.

Motor Vehicles Act, 1988

1561. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have invited the views of the State Transport Ministers and various transport organisations on the basic policy and approach to be followed by amending the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988;

(b) whether any response from any side in this respect has been received by Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what further changes Government propose to make in the existing Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The main suggestions received from different State Governments regarding amendments to the basic policies and approach of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 are the following :—

(i) reintroduction of restrictions on the issuing of stage carriage permits;

(ii) deletion of the enabling provision regarding fixing the age of vehicles;

(iii) grant of special permits for idle vehicles;

(iv) removal of the ceiling on personal holding of tourist vehicles and National Permits;

(v) restoration of powers to State Transport Undertakings to notify schemes of nationalisation without reference to the State Government;

(vi) deletion of the provision regarding removal of unattended and abandoned vehicles;

(vii) making optional the wearing of protective headgear for drivers of two wheelers; and

(viii) reduction of amount in fines.

(d) A Committee has also been set up to review the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 in the light of various representations received in this regard to examine various proposals.

Statement of Sri Lankan Minister Shri Ranjan Wijeratne on Tamil Refugees

1562. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the reported statement of Sri Lankan Minister, Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne recently on Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in India and blaming the Government of India for not fulfilling the accord;

(b) whether the Sri Lankan Minister also accused Government for not taking back over one lakh Tamil nationals of Indian origin and thereby flouting Shastri-Srimavo Accord; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, the Government has been the statements made by the Sri Lankan Minister but no formal approach for discussions has been made so far.

Security Risk of Pepsi

1563. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Intelligence Bureau was asked by Government to evaluate the security risk in having Pepsi operate in Punjab while their proposal was being considered ;

(b) if so, whether the Intelligence Bureau has given its consent; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, whether Government would now ask the Intelligence Bureau to evaluate this aspect and submit its report ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Irregularities in Irrigation and Flood Control Department of Delhi Administration

1564. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Technical Examiner of the Central Vigilance Commission had detected and reported large number of irregularities in the works of Irrigation and Flood Control Department of Delhi Administration; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any engineer has been held responsible for such lapses; if so, what action has been taken against them ;

(c) whether the C.T.E. detected and reported far excessive overpayment for works; if so, what is the amount of such payments; and

(d) what action has been taken to recover the excess amount paid to contractors and against the engineers responsible for such excessive payments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) As per information received from Delhi Administration, the Chief Technical Examiner on the Central Vigilance Commission had, brought to their notice about 22 cases of Irrigation and Flood control Department wherein certain irregularities were pointed out. The irregularities were non-observance of proper procedure for inviting tenders, excess payments to contractors bifurcatning/splitting up the works so, as to bring them within the sanctioning limits, executing the works through work-order basis without calling tenders etc.

(b) After completion of preliminary investigation into one case